

## Message Text

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11  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 151502Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6810

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 9828

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP PINS GR US ASEC  
SUBJECT: ATTENTION RETURNS TO THE CIA

1. THE GREEK PRESS, AND WITH IT AS A RESULT MOST POLITICAL GREEKS, IS AGAIN TAKEN UP WITH CIA. THIS REVIVAL OF INTEREST WAS GENERATED BY CONFUSED LOCAL PRESS REPORTS SEP 13 AND 14 ABOUT THE SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE STORY (SOME ACCOUNTS ATTRIBUTED THE STORY TO TIME MAGAZINE) WHICH REPORTEDLY ALLEGED (A) THAT IN AN INTERVIEW FORMER CIA DIRECTOR COLBY AND CIA SPECIAL COUNSEL ROGOVIN HAD EXPRESSED FEARS THAT REVELATION OF CIA'S TIES TO THE GREEK MILITARY AND GREEK "SERVICES" COULD CAUSE THE FALL OF THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT, AND (B) THAT THE MURDER OF RICHARD WELCH PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN PUTTING THE BLOCKS TO FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF CIA BY THE US CONGRESS. BOTH THESE STORIES WERE GIVEN LURID AND, ON OCCASION, TWISTED COVERAGE BY THE GREEK PRESS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, PERHAPS, THEY HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN UNCRITICALLY ACCEPTED -- AS ALL SUCH REPORTS HERE TEND TO BE -FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF WHAT MANY GREEKS ARE DISPOSED TO BELIEVE ANYWAY ABOUT ALLEGED PAST AND PRESENT US ACTIVITIES IN GREECE.

2. THE GOVT HAS UNQUESTIONABLY BEEN EMBARRASSED BY THE NY TIMES STORY. SPEAKING THROUGH ANONYMOUS "GOVERNMENT SOURCES", THE GOG ON SEPTEMBER 13  
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SOUGHT TO DISMISS IT AS "EXAGGERATED", AND OFFERED

ASSURANCES THAT WHEN THE FULL TEXT OF THE NY TIMES ARTICLE WAS IN HAND THE ALLEGATIONS WOULD BE INVESTIGATED. SUBSEQUENTLY, WHEN THE STORY CONTINUED TO PREOCCUPY GREEK PAPERS AND POLITICOS, "AN AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE" ADDED THAT THE GREEK INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (KYP) HAS NOW BEEN PLACED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MINISTRY TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE GOVT IS CONTROLLED COMPLETELY BY THE GOVT AND HAS NO TIES WITH FOREIGN "SERVICES". SUGGESTING THAT "THE MOST IMPROBABLE THINGS ARE WRITTEN IN THE UNITED STATES", THE SOURCE ADDED THAT RIGHT AFTER HIS RETURN TO GREECE AND ASSUMPTION OF POWER, PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS DEFINED THE RELATIONS OF HIS GOVT WITH THE UNITED STATES AS THE SAME AS RELATIONS WITH ALL THE REST OF GREECE'S ALLIES, RULING OUT ANY SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP OR DEPENDENCE.

3. COINCIDENTALLY WITH THE NY TIMES GENERATED STORIES, A FEW REPORTS ALSO APPEARED IN THE GREEK PRESS THAT THE GOG IS "REOPENING" ITS INVESTIGATION INTO RICHARD WELCH'S MURDER.  
KUBISCH

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